

Grant Review Committee Summary

Committee Members

FaDSS Council Members: *PJ West, Billie Marchik, Zeb Beilke-McCallum, Dr. Michael Fleming, Stephanie Stebens, and Shawna Johansen*

FaDSS Staff: *Lorie Easter and Page Eastin*

DCAA Administrator: *Bill Brand*

Advisory Group Members

Mid-Sioux Opportunities: *Dick Sievers, Executive Director and Laura Benson, FaDSS Coordinator*

West Central Community Action: *Wendy Mueller, Executive Director and Keith Bruck, Fiscal Officer*

Sieda Community Action: *Brian Dunn, Executive Director and Jennifer Huber, Director of Family Support Services*

Four Oaks: *Anne Gruenewald, Executive Director and Julie Weber Davis, FaDSS Coordinator*

Polk County, Family and Youth Services: *Eric Kool, Director and Doug Stodgel, FaDSS Coordinator*

Community Action of Eastern Iowa: *Roger Pavey, Executive Director*

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation: *Trisha Wilkins, Executive Director and Karli Schmelzer, Operations and Development Director*

Committee Responsibilities

- Determine the committee structure (grantee representation)
- Determine 3-5 year funding plan
- Update grantee capacity policy

Committee Meeting Dates

July 17 - Committee

July 31 – Committee and Advisory Group

August 14 - Committee and Advisory Group

August 28 - Committee and Advisory Group

September 4 - Committee

September 11 – Committee

July 17, 2020

During the meeting, the committee focused on the responsibilities of the group and formed the advisory group.

The Grant Review Committee considered the following factors when selecting grantee representatives:

- geographical location
- urban and rural representation
- size of programs
- CAP and non-CAP representation
- agencies that received both increases and decreases in FY21 funding

The expectations of the advisory group members are as follows:

- Attend 2-5 meetings via Google Meet between July 31st and early September
- Identify factors to be considered in funding formulas
- Provide feedback to the committee on funding formulas and proposals
- Review the committee's draft capacity policy and provide feedback

The advisory group members should represent their unique agency perspectives and needs. Advisory group members will not vote but will have the opportunity to provide feedback and input. All FaDSS grantees will have an opportunity to review funding and policy proposals prior to any Council action.

Committee meetings with advisory group

The Grant Review Committee met with the advisory group members on three separate occasions via Google Meet (July 31st, August 14th, and August 28th). Additionally, at the direction of the Committee, DCAA staff conducted two phone calls each with two advisory committee members to obtain further information and feedback.

During the three meetings with the advisory group, discussion was largely focused on the unique needs of grantees serving rural parts of the state including the cost of increased travel and staff time, the ability to recruit and serve FIP families in those areas and the impact on capacity. To facilitate solution-focused discussion, the group focused discussion on four areas: funding allocation, capacity, program changes and “other”.

During one of the meetings, a recommendation was made to explore a negotiated capacity process in which DCAA would set a grantee’s funding allocation and the grantee would negotiate with DCAA to determine their annual capacity. DCAA prepared a proposed process outline and negotiation factors. The question of how funding would be allocated remains outstanding.

A sentiment that was repeatedly expressed was the importance of the FaDSS program in every grantee’s agency and the desire to maintain it in their communities. Redesignating grantee service areas was mentioned though not explored in detail and has been viewed as a “last resort”.

Recurring discussion points include:

- The desire to remain a statewide program available in all 99 counties
- Funding service areas based on where lowans on FIP and below FPL reside
- The impact of decreasing program capacity statewide on the program as a whole
- The minimum funding level necessary to maintain a viable FaDSS program
- Accountability and the enforcement of a capacity policy
- Increasing the non-FIP eligibility to allow grantees with fewer FIP recipients to serve non-FIP families
- Adjusting caseload size policy to allow a specialist to serve more than 21 families thus reducing the need for an additional specialist
- Weighting cases with higher need and service intensity so they count as more than 1 on a specialist’s caseload
- The need for “new” funding
- Need for program to “pay for itself”

September 4, 2020

Council members (Zeb Beilke-McCallum, Billie Marchik, and PJ West) met via Google Meet with DCAA staff (Bill Brand, Lorie Easter, and Page Eastin). Council members shared their thoughts about the previous meetings and the feedback provided by the advisory group members. Conversation shifted to discussion of equity and systemic inequalities in relation to the allocation of funding and availability of FaDSS services. Council members requested race and ethnicity data from DCAA.

September 11, 2020

Committee members (Zeb Beilke-McCallum, Billie Marchik, and PJ West) met via Google Meet with DCAA staff (Bill Brand, Lorie Easter, and Page Eastin). Council members discussed the data provided which included white/non-white demographic information per service area as well as FIP and FPL numbers and percentages.

Council members requested tentative proposals to assess potential options and consequences in order to reach more seriously considered plans. DCAA will create several options for the committee to review on September 25th. A follow up meeting to hone in on options is scheduled for October 3rd. Committee members expressed desire to seek feedback on proposed plans from stakeholders including advisory group members.